

## THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Wednesday, March 24, 1915.

The present city administration has accepted the suggestion that it might not go out of power leaving holes in the second avenue pavement and repairs are now under way.

If affairs reach such a stage that Germany puts a stop to the hoarding of food to conserve the grain for food it should at least help to console the expert for what is going to happen over there Jan. 1.

The whipping post is retained in Delaware. It is claimed, because the people demand it. Evidently the protesters consider that it furnishes free entertainment which would otherwise be lacking.

Great Britain is said to have 1,000 people employed in constructing the new. Here is a vast amount of perfectly good talent which, from the newspaper standpoint, at least, is going to waste.

The Chicago judge who, after failing in efforts to reconcile an estranged couple ordered the husband, on pain of punishment for contempt, to send his wife flowers for Easter must have hoped they might avoid where persons are had failed.

Progress is recorded in the prosecution of Lawrence for fraudulent banking. After some months of effort on the part of the department of justice the ex-convict has been driven to the point where he avows that he is not guilty.

The bill which the Wisconsin legislature has been asked to pass prohibiting state officers from employing relatives in the public service is aimed at a most serious evil, but nobody expects for a moment that it has a chance to pass, even in Wisconsin.

If anyone is in doubt as to the advisability of taking the circuit bench out of politics he is urged to make reservation for a seat at the republican county judicial convention to be held at the circuit court room in the court room next Saturday morning.

Billy Sunday is pestered with those who accuse him of commercialism. He declares that if he were paid for fighting the devil at the rate that a top notch fighter gets for his work in the ring he would be drawing down millions instead of thousands. Of course, if he puts it on that basis his critics will feel constrained to drop the argument.

Champ Clark is said to have done valiant service in fighting a fire which destroyed the hotel at Pass Christian, Miss., where he and his wife and daughter were guests. He helped remove effects and otherwise worked as hard as he might have been expected to do if it had been a campaign year. As a result he is to have membership in the Pass Christian volunteer fire department added to his many other deserved honors.

In order to make prohibition effective the Iowa legislature has passed half a dozen bills "prohibiting" among other things, carrying liquor in suitcases, and providing for confiscation of vehicles used in the traffic and prison sentence for bootleggers and violators of injunctions. These are some of the barred wire entanglements which the Hawkeyes have woven to keep John Bartercorn out of the state and lawmakers are still busy.

It is, of course, proper to punish the Armour Grain company if it has been guilty of adulterating oats by mixing barley with them, but it will be a shame if the government in doing so destroys the 25 carloads of grain which have been seized at Baltimore. There are plenty of people in this country who could make use of oatmeal, even if a little barley went with it, and this grain, could it be delivered, would undoubtedly save the lives of hundreds of starving ones in other lands.

## SAVING WASTE PAPER.

Collection of waste paper by school children is a commendable undertaking and one for which Superintendent E. C. Fisher deserves credit. It should have a desirable effect in several directions. The money which is received from the sale is really a minor consideration, though worth the effort. More important will be the assistance which the movement will give in cleaning up the city and keeping it clean, provided the children enter the work in the proper spirit. Rivalry between the various rooms or between

the different buildings might be used to increase enthusiasm. If there proves to be a lack of it. If the children go about the collection of paper in earnest there should be very little of it left to blow about the streets or to go to waste otherwise, and the problem of keeping the city clean and presentable will be much simplified.

Hardly second in importance is the training it will give the children in looking after small economies. The plan is well calculated to show the effect which looking after the pennies and the fractions thereof will have in the long run in effecting accumulations which are worth while.

If there is one phase of his training in which Young America is more deficient than in a love for order and neatness it is in the exercise of the minute economies of everyday life. Gathering waste paper to sell is calculated to develop frugality. It should make Rock Island a better and cleaner town and raise the standard of its citizens of the coming generation.

## EXPERT INSPECTION.

Davenport is contemplating securing the services of experts to inspect its public work in future. Instead of doing out the jobs to political hangers-on. It is a step which Rock Island might copy without shame for the limitation.

There is no question that one of the grave faults in Rock Island's system of making public improvements has been the manner of selecting inspectors. Even if a man happens to be a political crony or a member of the administration, or a heavy tax payer in the district it does not necessarily follow that he is qualified to inspect public works, particularly where the use of concrete is involved. Concrete is now the most important single material used in public improvements. There are all kinds and grades of it and the eye is not qualified to make distinctions. One must be an expert and know how to make tests. Men trained to the business will also in time learn the tricks of contractors and will find ways to circumvent them where the service would be desired and therefore be helpful.

If expert and honest inspection were guaranteed on all public works in Rock Island the property owners would feel satisfied that they were getting all they paid for and it might be possible for an administration to put through an aggressive improvement program and escape disaster at the next election.

## ADVERTISING FOR PROSPERITY.

Canada has had no radical changes in its governmental policies for some years and its business affairs have been affected relatively not to a greater extent than those in the United States, and yet Canada is passing through an era of "hard times" more severe, if anything, than the United States. Canada, however, realizes fully while the United States only partly does, that the state of the public mind has a great deal to do with it.

In order to change the attitude of the people to one of optimism Dominion leaders are engaging in a campaign of advertising, unique in its conception and a supreme test of the power of printer's ink.

Billboards, pamphlets, newspapers, and placards are being used to urge "more production, less speculation," "more individual action," and continued buying.

"Be a patriot. Business first, talk war if you will," is the subtitle of one pamphlet that is used widely. "Good business waits only on a proper state of mind. Optimism is the hand maid of bustling times. Remember that your optimism is contagious."

"It will radiate from you to your salesman, from your salesman to your clients, and the result will be increased effort and more prosperity than ever before."

"Each individual must get his business 'hoop' rolling. Prosperity will set in unobtrusively and quickly."

"Don't wait for some one else to take the initiative—by so doing you handicap the crowd and retard business. Every patriot must start."

"Contagious Confidence."

"Contagious Cooperation."

"Contagious Sanity."

"Contagious big business will result."

Naturally, the United States will be much interested in the success of Canada's efforts to restore business confidence. However, we in this country have something to do besides sit around and wait for the end of the experiment. The business revival is being felt here but the war has made such radical changes in commerce and financial affairs that the return of prosperity is slow. Pending the receipt of the returns from Canada business in this country will do well to go systematically about the task of working out its own salvation.

## BELGIANS HONOR AMERICAN NAMES.

In all the clash and tumult of the war, America is quick to catch a word from Belgium. The people of this little country make an especial appeal to the American heart and have been made the recipients of the most efficient and generous outpouring of international relief which the history of such endeavors records.

On Washington's birthday the city authorities of Louvain resolved that, in token of their "ardent gratitude" to the republic, "in the new parts of the city, as they rise out of the ruins, three streets or squares shall receive the illustrious names of President Wilson, Washington and American Nation."

The burgomaster and the aldermen of Louvain could not give voice to what was in their minds. The resolution is but couched in brief and formal words. But it will be understood. And no honor that the greatest city of modern times in high noon of prosperity might confer could more deeply touch the American people than will this tribute from Louvain.

## The World Wide War Trust

XXXIII.  
BY CONGRESSMAN CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

(Special Correspondence of The Argus.)  
Washington, D. C., March 22.—On April 18, 1914, when the naval bill was introduced an amendment provided



CLYDE H. TAVENNER

for the extension of the plant of the bureau of ordnance of the navy department, so that the government might manufacture armor plate in years preceding amendments had been offered to the naval bill providing for the construction of an armor plant, and they had been ruled out of order on the grounds the amendments involved new legislation. My reason for providing in my amendment simply for the extension of a plant already in existence was the hope that a point of order would not lie against it, because of the fact the amendment did not provide for an entirely new thing, but simply for the extension of a plant already in existence. A point of order was raised, however, and the amendment was stricken out.

On May 7, while the same bill was under consideration, I offered a second amendment, to be tacked on at the end of the following paragraph of the bill:

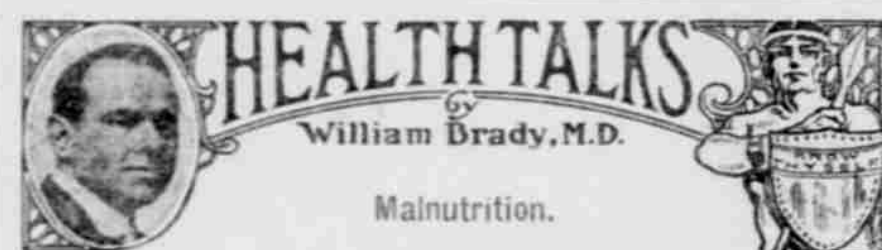
"Increase of the navy. Armor and armament. Toward the armor and armament for vessels heretofore authorized, to be available until expended, \$1,677,300."

This second amendment read as follows:

"Provided, That the secretary of the navy is hereby authorized to procure by contract armor of the best quality for any or all vessels heretofore or hereinafter provided for, provided such contracts can be made at a price which, in his judgment, is reasonable and equitable; but in case he is unable to make contracts for armor under the above conditions, he is hereby authorized and directed to procure a site for and to erect thereon a factory for the armor and gun forgings; and the sum of \$4,000,000 is hereby appropriated toward the erection of said factory and the purchase of a site therefor."

This amendment is practically a duplicate of a provision contained in the naval appropriation bill of 1900; and the mere fact that that bill carried this provision resulted in the government saving millions of dollars in the cost of armor plate. The secretary of the navy was able to say to the three firms having a monopoly of the manufacture of armor in this country that if they were not willing to sell armor to the government at a fair and reasonable price he was authorized by law to go ahead and manufacture his own armor. Let us see whether the insertion of the amendment I refer to proved of value in the naval bill of 1900.

Back in 1902 the government was paying an average of \$658 a ton for armor. Some time later Senator Tillman of South Carolina, started in to fight the high price and to oppose the armor ring, and he forced the armor trust gradually to reduce its price until, in 1909, he got the price down to \$413 a ton.



A baby suffering from malnutrition is simply under-nourished. A well fed baby may be poorly nourished by reason of weak digestion or some obscure constitutional disturbance.

Says Dr. Holt in his textbook: "One of the most frequent causes is the pernicious custom of keeping infants in close apartments where the thermometer ranges from 72 to 78 degrees F., and where the greatest anxiety is constantly felt lest the children take cold. Such infants may lose weight, become anemic and exhibit all the signs of malnutrition where nothing else is wrong except the conditions mentioned."

Same Old Fresh Air Preaching.

We cordially agree in the view that cool, fresh air—outdoor air—is a fine baby food.

Condensed milk, malted milk, various "foods" and similar inadequate substitutes for fresh milk are common causes of malnutrition in babies. There may be a case now and then in which a young baby cannot digest properly modified and wholesome cow's milk, but it is certain that the great majority of instances in which these unscientific substitutes are resorted to would be more successfully managed if the "ready-to-feed" preparations were unobtainable. To be sure, a baby may digest such offerings easily, and even grow fat on the excessive sugar content of the proprietary food, but nevertheless the baby will be less vigorous and have less resistance to disease than he would have if properly nourished.

The under-nourished baby is restless, fretful, irritable, has a poor circulation, cold hands and feet, soft, flabby muscles, often some enlarged glands in the neck, easily upset digestion, subnormal weight and very slow gain if any. He is very susceptible to catarrhal infections, intestinal trouble, whooping cough and pneumonia.

Then the naval appropriation bill of 1909 was amended to carry the provision I have just alluded to, which provided that if the secretary of the navy was unable to obtain a square deal from the armor trust, he was authorized and directed to build a government armor plant.

What was the result? The three concerns manufacturing armor, rather than have Uncle Sam build a plant, gradually reduced their prices from \$413 in 1909 to \$345 in 1906, which meant a saving of millions of dollars to the government. Such was the result of the insertion in the naval bill of 1900 of the provision that I presented. Without spending a dollar for a plant or doing anything further than simply providing that the secretary of the navy was authorized to build a plant if he could not obtain fair treatment from the trust, the government saved millions.

But when congress failed to continue the provision in the naval bill it gradually lost its moral effect upon the armor ring, and the price of armor plate to the government was steadily advanced from \$345 a ton in 1906 to \$454 a ton at the present time.

If the next congress will replace this amendment in the naval bill, I predict it will save every penny of \$1,000,000 a year, even if the government never further considers the advisability of a government plant.

The bill just passed carries an appropriation of \$15,583,858 for armor and armament alone. If the government had its own armor and gun-forging plant I believe I am well within the bounds of conservatism when I say that 35 per cent of this sum, or, in round numbers, \$5,400,000, could be saved to the taxpayers. Is \$4,000,000 a year on armor and armament alone worth the saving? I for one believe it is.

But my second amendment, like the first, went the way that all amendments go that threaten the profits of that gigantic trust which has a monopoly on preparation for war in this country, and which draws down annually a very large slice of the \$250,000,000 appropriated each year for the maintenance of the army and navy in time of peace. It went out on a point of order.

(To Be Continued.)

Tragedy of Cleaning Our Shoes. In "America as I Saw It" Mrs. Alec Tweedie, writing of our home life, says:

"But home life—where is it? The poor man who pays so heavily for everything cannot even get his boots blackened at home, and he has to go into the streets to the nearest 'saline' for the purpose. At the street corners of every town are high, sterner looking chairs under an awning, and there the men—aye, and women, too—sit solemnly, with a foot reposing on each leg rest placed there for the purpose, and while they read their morning papers a dark brown boots for fivepence or blacks them for twopence halfpenny. Even in hotels it is difficult to get boots cleaned, and they have to be put on dirty and worn by their owner down to the boot room, where, in the larger hotels, they are now kind enough to have a separate department for ladies. The land of luxury, but not of comfort. Those little comforts, which to us in England are the necessities of life, are not to be found in America. Why? Because there are few people to render service."

## CHORDS AND DISCORDS

HOMER Rodeheaver says he is through with the women. Homer is cruel, to say the least, in putting all the sweet things in the class with the one that shook him for several thousand dollars because he had failed to keep his promise, made to her, she alleged, while he was taking her home in a hack, to claim her as his wife.

## Spring Cleaning Note.

Johnnie Curry has bought the restaurant from Walter Aspy. His first move is to clean and decorate it. Toodie Babb will be his cook.—Clayton, Ill. Enterprise.

## Uncensored.

Barcelona, Spain.—The tank schooner, *Vie Huerta*, Mexico, is interned here. Reports that it is taking water are vigorously denied, although admission is made that it lists to "port considerably."

\*And to sherry, etc.—Detroit News.

THE dispatches tell of a wealthy man giving a party to a real bear at Palm Beach, inviting a company of his friends in to meet Bruin, paying the girls as high as \$1,000 each to dance with the animal, and getting the latter boiling drunk on a concoction of beer and wine. It would be interesting to know the bear's estimate of American society as represented by the set that made a fuss over him.

"HE Keeps His Word" is the slogan being used in behalf of one of the candidates for mayor at Peoria. Trouble here is that the people must elect him in order to establish the truth or falsity of that assertion.

ONE suspects that all those who are opposing the death penalty are not prompted wholly by unselfish motives.

LONDONER who slew three of his wives in the family bath tub evidently was determined to make a clean job of his heinous task, suggests L. M. D.

## Zeke Perkins' New Machine.

J. A. Johnson, deputy circuit clerk, contributes the following yarn, which he found in a paper published in Benton county, Arkansas, where he expects to locate some day, the verses to be sung to the air of "Casey Jones":

Old Zeke Perkins said his boys the other day,  
And the gosh-darned fool threw his money right away.  
Rode into town sitting right on a board,  
And he came ridin' home in a darned little Ford.  
When he came to the house and got to the gate,  
He shut down the throttle and he put on the brake.  
He grabbed for the reins, got the throttle instead,  
And the gosh-darned Ford kept chugging ahead.

## CHORUS:

Old Zeke Perkins bought an automobile,  
Old Zeke Perkins' whiskers were red,  
Old Zeke Perkins lost the combination  
And the darn little Ford kept chugging right ahead.  
Zeke jerked on the levers and he turned off the gas,  
He kicked at the pedals and he broke out the glass.  
He cut all the wires, and he pulled off the top,  
But the gosh-darned Ford it just wouldn't stop.  
He pulled out his knife and he smiled so serene,  
Cut a hole in the tank, drained out the gasoline.  
He pulled out his gun, shot the tires full of lead,  
But the gosh-darned Ford kept chugging right ahead.

Went right through the fence and up through the lane;  
Mirandy saw him coming and she like to went insane.  
She ran out ahead, then she stopped to see,  
And the Ford struck her squarely where the bustle ought to be.  
She reached out her arm as she went in the air,  
Just as Zeke went by she grabbed him by the hair;  
She bounced on the seat, landed down in the bed,  
And the gosh-darned Ford kept chugging right ahead.

He steered for the shed, but just missed the hole,  
Struck an old pig and you ought to see it roll,  
Out through the yard then they landed in a heap,  
In a big muddy pool 'bout six feet deep.  
Zeke grabbed Mirandy and waded for the shore,  
He was glad that it stopped and wouldn't go no more.  
He pricked up his ears then he looked back and said:  
"Why the gosh-darned Ford is chugging right ahead."

IRVIN Cobb says he could write 10,000 words about a peanut. We don't doubt it after wading through some of his American war descriptions.

YOU'LL observe that it's a case of getting back to the meat ticket with the majority of former republicans who are deserting the bull money party to return to their first love. They have found sticking to a principle expensive business.

THIRD son of the kaiser has been promoted to an army captaincy. Another hard working young man to whom recognition finally has come.

J. M. C.

## The Daily Story

Under Fire—By William Chandler.

At twenty minutes past 3 o'clock in the morning, when the people in the town of Yarmouth, on the east coast of England, were wrapped in slumber, there sounded on the still air the stroke of a bell. Hundreds, thousands of persons started up and listened. Within a few seconds there was another and another stroke, until it was evident that not the hour was being struck, but an alarm. Then on the streets were heard sounds of men running, followed by a cry.

"Turn out! The Germans!"

"Then a boom, and in a few seconds a deafening explosion.

The colonel of the woman's regiment jumped out of bed and into her uniform, descended to her headquarters on the floor below, where members of her staff were dressing, and seeing that there was delay said sharply:

"Come, get a move on! Never mind that switch, Captain Blake. Say, you, there! Miss Brewster! What are you looking for—a bracelet? Never mind ornaments. The enemy is upon us, and there's no time to lose. Genevieve Malvern, put down that hand glass, turn out and help call the regiment to arms."

Each woman, as soon as she had finished her toilet, dashed out and away. Meanwhile members of the force came hurrying in, some jabbing pins into their alpine hats, some buttoning their jackets, some pressing their hands upon their back hair to make sure that it was fast. As they arrived the companies fell in under their sergeants, and soon a line consisting of fully half the roster was drawn up in the street. Then the colonel, standing before the colors, gave the order to break into column, and placing herself at the head cried in a loud mezzo soprano voice:

"Forward!"

Meanwhile a number of shells from a German war vessel were bursting here and there, some of them doing serious damage. The woman's regiment was marched to the street fronting on the water and came to a rest. During the march it was joined by members who had not arrived at the army in time to join at the departure of the corps. Some of these ladies were buckling on their accoutrements, others adjusting their hastily donned clothing. A lady had come forth in slippers, one of which she lost and was endeavoring to regain. Another as she ran was followed by her poodle, who barked as he galloped after her, evidently thinking his mistress was doing it all for his sport.

When the regiment was drawn up in line it was quite light. In the offing a German cruiser was steaming slowly past the town. The soldiers did not

recognize her as a ship of war, and since she was not firing there was a ripple of chat along the line:

"Do lend me a hairpin." "Take care. You're pointing that gun right in my face." "Isn't it horrid of the Germans to wake us up at this time of the morning?" "What's it all about? I don't see anything of an enemy. They must have gone home."

Suddenly there was a flash on the crest, followed by a report, and a shell came shrieking over the water. It struck a house back of the regiment, exploded, and the detonation was followed by falling brick and mortar. Conversation stopped at once. The babel of voices was hushed as if it had been shut off by lightning. But not for long.

"My goodness gracious!" "Isn't that awful!" "The horrid things!" "Oh, land, that noise must have wakened my baby!"

Another shot came, struck the ground sloping to the sea a hundred yards before the line, and there was a rain of fragments. But fortunately the shell had struck too far in advance. That part of the line before which it fell broke away, but was quickly rallied by the officers.

The ladies stood their ground like heroines till the shooting ceased and the cruiser, turning her bow eastward, steamed away. Then it seemed that bedlam had broken loose all along the line. The color bearer fainted, but the colors were picked up by a woman of sterner stuff and held in their former position. A few shrieks arose from different parts of the line, but the principal din was composed of exclamations, shouts, cries of horror or victory mingled with maledictions on the Germans. Strange to say, there was much more fear now that they were steaming away than when they were sending "those horrid shells."

While the cruiser was growing less in the distance the colonel rode along the line and stopping in the center halted and made a short speech congratulating the women on their splendid behavior under fire. Then she gave the order bringing the regiment into column of platoons and started them for the armory.

All would have gone well for the eclat of the women's behavior had it not been for some boys whom even German shells could not turn from their pranks. The boys, tied together mouse-colored rags which they attached to strings, then hid themselves along the street marched over by the women. At a given signal each boy pulled what was apparently a rodent through the ranks.

Every company through which the bundles were pulled broke and ran on to the stoops of the houses on the line of march.

## Sidelights on the European War

London, (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Jam is one of the most important articles in the diet of the British soldier, notwithstanding the ridicule to which it is subjected, particularly by German humorists.

Jam, says Professor James Long has three and a half times the energy value of butter. Its value lies in its richness in sugar—of which one half its weight consists—in the minerals present in the skins of fruit, in its laxative character and its mechanical aid to digestion. Besides it is toothsome and gives a relish to army diet that by its mental effect goes far in the maintenance of health. No better variant could be found for a diet limited to simple foods.

The professor points out the fallacy of the popular belief that all sugars are alike. In jam it partakes of the nature of sugar of fruit. Unlike the beet and cane sugar of commerce, the sugar of fruit has a remarkable effect on nutrition. Commercial sugar, if eaten too freely, causes irritation, acidity and other freaks of indigestion. When the same sugar is employed in jam, it partakes largely of the nature of fruit sugar and its ill effects largely disappear. This is particularly true of the "invert sugar" of jam that has been well boiled. Invert sugar is due to the united action of heat and fruit acids.

The most nutritious and useful varieties of jam are those made from plum, apricot, gooseberry and currant, but a mixture of plum and apple stand at the head of the list.

Berlin, (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—The process of clearing out all foreign elements from the German language has now been extended to the vocabulary of sports. A long list of words, mainly English, has been made up by the committee in charge of this reform, and Germans from all parts of the country have been invited to make suggestions for German equivalents for these words.

Some alterations have been already accepted, among them being: for acrobatic, "hindernisrennen"; for start, "aufahren"; for handicap, "ausgleichrennen"; for maiden race, "rennen fur sieglose pferde."

Such words as cricket and gold, it is admitted, present difficulties, as do all the terms connected with those two games. The trouble is to find expressions, without too much length, which will accurately say what is meant. But the greatest difficulty of all is with the word "sport" itself.

to life, writes H. H. Winthrop in Popular Mechanics magazine. A great plume is in progress. In the south much of it has already been done, and like a vast wave is sweeping from golf to lakes. Probably never in our history have so many acres been plowed and planted as this year, for we have not only ourselves but other lands to feed. We look and hope for an unprecedented yield. That's encouraging.

The steel mills have sent out the welcome news, and thousands of workmen who have been idle all winter now hasten each morning toward the goal of their dependence. Not all are needed yet, by any means, but the number is increasing every week. That helps.

The shelves of the country dealer are as nearly empty as possible; so are the storage rooms of the wholesaler and jobber. Yet they have been able to weather the gale, for the failures have been remarkably few in number, there is no inflation in merchandise, and once the tide turns, as it must inevitably do, one of these days, the wires will almost melt with the "antic" appeals to hurry up orders and shipments. The factories will be working night and day and the wheels of commerce will merrily turn again. All this is no dream, but the inevitable. Some unforeseen cog may slip and occasion some delay, but signs surely do point to a splendid resumption of business from now on. That's promising.

What's the matter with us, anyway? Big crops for two years and now wartime prices for grain and the money piling up in the banks. The deposits in Chicago banks alone increased \$90,000,000 the first six weeks in 1915. We are better off than we know, stronger than we realize. We have not lost our skill, nor initiative, nor vitality. We're scared. We are like a lot of people at a funeral: the service is over, it's time to go, everybody wants to leave, and each hesitates to be the first to start. The "buy now" and the "build it now" and a lot of "do it now" are all right. While our sympathies for others in distress naturally depress us, it is time to rise above our fears, and with firm hands and brave hearts march confidently out into our future and our destiny. And do things.

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## Mar. 24 in American History.

1644—The commonwealth of Rhode Island founded.  
1801—Alexander I. became czar of Russia, succeeding Paul.  
1803—General Baron Jomini, famous French soldier and writer on military science, died; born 1779.  
1882—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet, died; born 1807.  
1905—Venezuela refused arbitration in the United States claims dispute.